

National DOCTORS MEET

IN WASHINGTON

8-25-10

Twelfth Annual Session of National Medical Association

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Dr. M. F. Wheatland Suggests New Method of Electing Of- ficers of Organization

DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT

Is Not Vested With Much Power—Will Probably Be Given a Greater Hold on Machinery of Association

Special to THE NEW YORK AGE.

Washington, D. C., August 24.—This week, the National Medical Association is holding its twelfth annual session in the Capital City, and physicians are here from many parts of the country. Extensive preparations have been made by the local committees for the entertainment of the visitors, and aside from the convention which is of much interest there are many social affairs being given.

The convention convened for a three days' session Tuesday morning with Dr. William S. Lofton of the local committee, for the day's session, very interesting papers and lectures.

The principal business of Tuesday was the election of the president Dr. Marcus F. Wheatland, who was as follows:

Chairman of Local Committee.

President of the Association in an endeavor to diffuse the influence of the ward politician.

A good deal of time was spent in the discussion of the question of the lives spent in the practice of medicine.

General topics of discussion were the world so inspiring and consoling as a survey of the lives of those men of

exalted memory, who, in mind and body, have distinguished themselves in the higher interests of the broad people in the States; and as we follow their例, we find ourselves in a position of safety which makes it safe to say that the Federal Government has done its best to help us all to do our best for the welfare of mankind.

Words fail me to adequately express the gratitude felt for the honor you have bestowed upon me by my election to this office. The heart is called indeed that would not be moved by the thrills of emotion at such an expression of confidence and esteem, and it is needless to say that I deeply feel the obligation imposed.

Brings Up Question of Finance.

"Of all the problems which present themselves to civilization at this time for solution, there are none of greater moment to men generally and to physicians in particular than those which are concerned in the prolongation of human life and the increase of the efficiency of mankind. That we may share in these worthy efforts, three commissions have been appointed by the organization during the past year for the investigation of tuberculosis, pellagra and uncinariasis.

"The work is all under way and I hope the commissioners have received the prompt co-operation of the rank and file of the organization, for without this nothing but failure is possible.

"I desire to bring to your attention a few questions which have been agitating the minds of a great many of those who are quite familiar with the necessities of the organization and have its interests at heart. The first of these relates to its finance. We cannot raise money enough under the present arrangement to run the organization. It appears to me that the profession throughout the country is prosperous enough to put the organization upon an independent financial basis, and this can be done without question by raising the dues to five dollars per year, the same to include the Journal. It is not in keeping with the dignity of the profession to ask others less able than ourselves to pay the expenses of our meetings. This calling in of outsiders to finance our meetings places them in a diplomatic position to interfere with our affairs which is not conducive to that peace and harmony within the organization so essential to its work and growth.

System of Electing Officers.

"Another matter of great importance is the method of electing our officers. There is a general concensus of opinion that an end should be put to that train of unpleasantness which follows so regularly in the wake of your elections.

"As the matter now stands we are subject to the danger of having applied to us all the methods practiced by the ward politician. If I may exclude myself from the reference, I would say that your judgment can be trusted in meeting the emergency as far as the election of officers are concerned, but it is impossible to obviate the embarrassment to the organization which follows as a result of the unworthy methods often adopted under the present system of conducting the election.

"May I suggest that a way out of the difficulty might be found in the establishment of a house of delegates made up of representatives of the constituent local societies who should have power to fill the offices? Of course whatever

the result of the election from the

versity.

Wednesday, 11 A. M.

Called to Order.

Invocation.

Reading of Minutes.

Paper:

"Pro and Con on the Recent Virginia Dental Law,"

Roscoe C. Brown, D.D.S., Richmond, Va

Discussion.

Paper:

is known, the annual session of the association will be held at the annual meeting of the executive committee, and the executive committee will have the responsibility of the approval of the constitution of the executive committee. The constitution will be held the benefit of co-operation and assistance of the present chairman of the executive committee, but I can imagine the possibility of things being otherwise. The present year should have more positive duties to perform, and be given a greater hold on the machinery of the organization, for in a measure he is held responsible for the year's work. In order to take up these and other vital questions I would advise that a committee for the revision of the constitution be appointed.

"I hope we will have a very profitable meeting, feeling throughout the session that it is good to be here, for after all is said and done, the association will grow in proportion to the amount of service it can render by helping the rank and file of the profession to do better work."

The Program.

Following is the program for the session:

Tuesday, Morning Session, August 23, 10 A. M.

Association called to order, by William S. Lofton, D.D.S., Chairman of Local Committee.

Music.

Invocation.

Introduction of President.

President's Annual Address.

Corrections and Approval of Minutes.

Reports:

- (a) Of Secretary of Executive Board.
- (b) Of Treasurer.

(c) Of General Secretary.

(d) Of Editor of Journal.

(e) Of Business Manager of Journal.

Report of Committees.

Roll Call and Payment of Dues.

Registration of New Members.

Reports of Delegates from State and Local Societies.

Unfinished Business.

Appointment of Committees.

Adjournment.

Tuesday, August 23, Afternoon Session, 2 O'clock.

Call to Order.

Music.

Invocation.

Reading of Minutes of Morning Session.

Continuation of the History of the National Medical Association:

T. A. Walker, M.D., Baton Rouge, La.

Report of Tuberculosis Commission:

Marcus F. Wheatland, M.D., Chairman

Newport, R. I.

Report of Hookworm Commission:

John A. Kenney, M.D., Chairman, Tuskegee Institute, Ala.

Report of Pellegra Commission:

A. M. Townsend, M.D., Chairman

Nashville, Tenn.

Report of Committee on Medical Education:

H. F. Gamble, M.D., Chairman, Charles

ton, West Va.

Adjournment.

Tuesday, August 23, 2-5 P. M.

Clinics in Dental Infirmary, Howard Uni-